

# Anatomy of a Web Address

What you need to know to stay safe when surfing the Web



Dave Palmer  
Instructional Media Agent  
South Central Extension District

# Anatomy of a Web Address

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

This is called a URL or Web address



2 of 18

# Anatomy of a Web Address

Why it's important to be able to read URLs:

It's important to **understand what domain** you're on, or going to.

Online criminals **often** take advantage of those who can't read a URL.



3 of 18

# Anatomy of a Web address

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

To find out what domain you're on, start at the far left of the URL.

Move to the right until you see a single slash (/).



4 of 18

# Anatomy of a Web address

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

domain

Stop and back up. This is the domain.

This domain belongs to the University of Florida.



5 of 18

# Anatomy of a Web address

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

The **.edu** is called a **Top Level Domain or TLD**.

It gives you important information about the domain. **.edu** says this is an educational organization.



6 of 18

## Anatomy of a Web address

**.com** is a commercial business

Each country also has a TLD:

**.ca** is Canada, **.uk** is the United Kingdom

**.fr** is France, **.cz** is the Czech Republic, etc.

Each country has different rules about who can use a TLD and different enforcement of the rules.

## Anatomy of a Web address

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

subdomains

In front of the domain are sub-domains.

## Anatomy of a Web address

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

subdomains domain

Subdomains are always to the left of the domain. Subdomains are part of the domain, not domains in and of themselves.

## Anatomy of a Web address

Notice the slashes (/)

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

Web folder

If part of the URL has a single slash on each end, it's the name of a **folder** on a website. Don't get folders confused with domains.

## Anatomy of a Web address

<http://bankofamerica.com/> domain

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

domain

Domains never have a single slash on both ends

## Anatomy of a Web address

Webpage

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

The end of the URL is often a **webpage**. It typically ends with htm, html,.shtml, asp, cfm, etc. Don't get webpages confused with domains. A webpage never ends with a single slash.

Is this URL on the University of Florida's domain?

<http://www.premline.ru/img/webmail.ufl.edu/>

Is this URL on the University of Florida's domain?

If you didn't know how to read a URL, and only looked at the end of this URL, you might think you're on the ufl.edu domain.

<http://www.premline.ru/img/webmail.ufl.edu/>

That's what online criminals want you to believe.

Is this URL on the University of Florida's domain?

See the slashes on both ends?  
[webmail.ufl.edu](http://www.premline.ru/img/webmail.ufl.edu/) is a web folder, **not** a domain.

What's the real domain?

<http://www.premline.ru/img/webmail.ufl.edu/>

Web folder

Is this URL part of the University of Florida?

The domain is **premline.ru**. Where's that? The **.ru** tells you the domain was registered in Russia! It's not connected to UF at all.

<http://www.premline.ru/img/webmail.ufl.edu/>

domain

## Don't Let Sneaky URLs Fool YOU!

Slashes (/) on both ends

<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/A-ZPubs.shtml>

subdomains      domain      Web folder      Webpage

URL or Web address

## Resources

These resources can help you avoid problems.

A list of TLDs (top level domains), so you can look it up and be safe.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Internet\\_top-level\\_domains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains)

More Internet Security information at:

<http://TechTeachToo.com>